

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of providing pay services over a network, comprising the steps of:

detecting a request for a designated pay service and an upper limit of an amount to be paid for the designated pay service; and

outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid.

2. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the designated pay service and the pay service that can be provided within the upper limit.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said outputting step includes a step of judging whether a binding service is provided within the upper limit.

4. An apparatus for providing pay services over a network, comprising:

detecting means for detecting a request for a designated pay service and an upper limit of an amount to be paid for the designated pay service; and

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output means for outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising requesting means for requesting provision of one of the designated pay service and the pay service that can be provided within the upper limit.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said outputting means includes judging means for judging whether a binding service is provided within the upper limit.

7. A memory medium storing a program therein, the program comprising:

a step of detecting a request for a designated pay service and an upper limit of an amount to be paid for the designated pay service; and

a step of outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid.

8. A memory medium according to Claim 7, further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the

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designated pay service and the pay service that can be provided within the upper limit.

9. A memory medium according to Claim 7, wherein said outputting step includes a step of judging whether a binding service is provided within the upper limit.

10. A method of providing pay services over a network, comprising the steps of:

judging a charge for a basic service; and
outputting information which represents a service that can be provided within a payable limit without payment of a charge that will exceed the payable limit according to the judged charge for the basic service.

11. A method according to Claim 10 further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the basic service and the service that can be provided within the payable limit without exceeding the payable limit.

12. An apparatus for providing pay services over a network, comprising:

judging means for judging a charge for a basic service; and
output means for outputting information which

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represents a service that can be provided within a payable limit without payment of a charge that will exceed the payable limit according to the judged charge for the basic service.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising means for requesting provision of one of the basic service and the service that can be provided within the payable limit without exceeding the payable limit.

14. A memory medium storing a program therein, the program comprising:

a step of judging a charge for a basic service; and
a step of outputting information which represents a service that can be provided within a payable limit without payment of a charge that will exceed the payable limit according to the judged charge for the basic service.

15. A memory medium according to Claim 14, further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the basic service and the service that can be provided within the payable limit without exceeding the payable limit.

16. A method of providing a pay service over a network, comprising the steps of:

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detecting a request for a designated service and an upper limit of a payable amount for the designated service; and

outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated service which can be provided beyond the upper limit of payable amount.

17. A method according to Claim 16, further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the designated service and the service that can be provided beyond the upper limit of the payable amount.

18. An apparatus for providing a pay service over a network, comprising:

detecting means for detecting a request for a designated service and an upper limit of a payable amount for the designated service; and

output means for outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated service which can be provided beyond the upper limit of payable amount.

19. An apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising means for requesting provision of one of the designated service and the service that can be provided

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beyond the upper limit of the payable amount.

20. A memory medium storing a program therein, the program comprising:

a step of detecting a request for a designated service and an upper limit of a payable amount for the designated service; and

a step of outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated service which can be provided beyond the upper limit of payable amount.

21. A memory medium according to Claim 20, further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the designated service and ~~the service that can be provided~~ beyond the upper limit of the payable amount.

22. A method of providing a pay service over a network, comprising the steps of:

judging a charge for a basic service; and
outputting information which represents a service that requires payment of an extra charge beyond an upper limit of a payable amount according to the judged charge for the basic service.

23. A method according to Claim 22 further comprising

the step of requesting provision of one of the basic service and the service that requires payment of the extra charge.

24. An apparatus for providing a pay service over a network, comprising:

judging means for judging a charge for a basic service; and

output means for outputting information which represents a service that requires payment of an extra charge beyond an upper limit of a payable amount according to the judged charge for the basic service.

25. An apparatus according to Claim 24 further comprising means for requesting provision of one of the basic service and the service that requires payment of the extra charge.

26. A memory medium storing a program therein, the program comprising:

a step of judging a charge for a basic service; and
a step of outputting information which represents a service that requires payment of an extra charge beyond an upper limit of a payable amount according to the judged charge for the basic service.

27. A memory medium according to claim 26 further comprising a step of requesting provision of one of the basic service and the service that requires payment of the extra charge.

28. An method of presenting options for a pay service, comprising the steps of:

detecting a setting that requires payment of charge; and

presenting an option that requires payment of a charge larger than the detected setting and that falls within an upper limit of a payable charge.

29. A method according to Claim 28, further comprising a step of selecting one of the detected setting and the option.

30. A method according to Claim 28, wherein at said presenting step, the option is presented according to a charge required by the detected setting.

31. An apparatus for presenting options for a pay service, comprising:

detecting means for detecting a setting that requires payment of a charge; and

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option presenting means for presenting an option that requires payment of a charge larger than the detected setting and that falls within an upper limit of a payable charge.

32. An apparatus according to Claim 31, further comprising selecting means for selecting one of the detected setting and the option.

33. An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein said presenting means presents the option according to a charge required by the detected setting.

34. A memory medium storing a program therein, the program comprising:

a step of detecting a setting that requires payment of a charge; and

a step of presenting an option that requires payment of a charge larger than the detected setting and that falls within an upper limit of a payable charge.

35. A memory medium according to Claim 34, wherein the program further comprises a step of selecting one of the detected setting and the option.

36. A memory medium according to Claim 34, wherein at said presenting step, the option is presented according to a charge required by the detected setting.

37. An accounting system having a service providing apparatus, a data processing apparatus, and an accounting apparatus, said accounting system comprising:

input means for inputting an upper limit of a charge payable for a requested service;

determining means for determining candidates for a service which can be provided by said service providing apparatus within an upper limit of the charge; and

reporting means for reporting information of the candidates to said data processing apparatus.

38. An accounting system according to Claim 37, wherein said input means inputs priority levels of the requested service and said determining means determines the candidates for a service which can be provided by said service providing apparatus within the upper limit of the charge according to the priority levels.

39. An accounting system according to Claim 37, wherein said input means provides an input field on a screen of said data processing apparatus in which the upper limit

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of the charge is input.

40. An accounting system according to Claim 37, wherein said reporting means provides the information of the candidates on a screen of said data processing apparatus so that any of the candidates can be selected.

41. An accounting system according to Claim 37, wherein when a charge for a requested service is set by a user and is within the upper limit of the charge, said determining means determines the candidates for the service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge.

42. An accounting system according to Claim 37, wherein the requested service is a service of producing a printout of data.

43. An accounting apparatus for performing accounting on provision of a predetermined service, comprising:

upper limit acquiring means for acquiring an upper limit of a charge that is entered by a user;

determining means for determining candidates for a service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge; and

output means for outputting information of the

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candidates determined by the determining means.

44. An apparatus according to Claim 43, further comprising priority acquiring means for acquiring user-designated priority levels, wherein said determining means determines the candidates for a service which can be provided within the upper limit of the charge according to the priority levels.

45. An accounting method for performing accounting on provision of a predetermined service, comprising the steps of:

acquiring an upper limit of a charge that is entered by a user;

determining candidates for a service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge; and

outputting information of the candidates determined in the determining step.

46. A method according to Claim 45, further comprising a step of acquiring user-designated priority levels, wherein in said determining step, the candidates for a service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge are determined according to the priority levels.

47. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a program for performing accounting on provision of a predetermined service, the program comprising:

an acquiring step of acquiring an upper limit of a charge that is entered by a user;

a determining step of determining candidates for a service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge; and

an output step of outputting information of the candidates determined in the determining step.

48. A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 47, wherein the program further comprises an acquiring step of acquiring priority levels of set items which specify a setting for printing and which are entered by a user,

wherein the candidates for a service which can be provided within the upper limit of the charge are determined according to the priority levels.

49. An apparatus for providing pay services over a network, comprising:

a detector that detects a request for a designated pay service and an upper limit of an amount to be paid for the designated pay service; and

an output device that outputs information that

represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid.

50. An apparatus according to Claim 49, further comprising a requesting device that requests provision of one of the designated pay service and the pay service that can be provided within the upper limit.

51. An apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said output device includes a judging device that judges whether a binding service is provided within the upper limit.

52. An apparatus for providing pay services over a network, comprising:

a judging device that judges a charge for a basic service; and

an output device that outputs information which represents a service that can be provided within a payable limit without payment of a charge that will exceed the payable limit according to the judged charge for the basic service.

53. An apparatus according to Claim 52, further comprising a requesting device that requests provision of

one of the basic service and the service that can be provided within the payable limit without exceeding the payable limit.

54. An apparatus for providing a pay service over a network, comprising:

a detector that detects a request for a designated service and an upper limit of a payable amount for the designated service; and

an output device that outputs information that represents a pay service other than the designated service which can be provided beyond the upper limit of payable amount.

55. An apparatus according to Claim 54, further comprising a requesting device that requests provision of one of the designated service and the service that can be provided beyond the upper limit of the payable amount.

56. An apparatus for providing a pay service over a network, comprising:

a judging device that judges a charge for a basic service; and

an output device that outputs information which represents a service that requires payment of an extra

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charge beyond an upper limit of a payable amount according to the judged charge for the basic service.

57. An apparatus according to Claim 56, further comprising a requesting device that requests provision of one of the basic service and the service that requires payment of the extra charge.

58. An apparatus for presenting options for a pay service, comprising:

a detector that detects a setting that requires payment of a charge; and

an option presenting device that presents an option that requires payment of a charge larger than the detected setting and that falls within an upper limit of a payable charge.

59. An apparatus according to Claim 58, further comprising a selecting device that selects one of the detected setting and the option.

60. An apparatus according to Claim 58, wherein said presenting device presents the option according to a charge required by the detected setting.

61. An accounting system having a service providing apparatus, a data processing apparatus, and an accounting apparatus, said accounting system comprising:

an input device that inputs an upper limit of a charge payable for a requested service;

a determining device that determines candidates for a service which can be provided by said service providing apparatus within an upper limit of the charge; and

a reporting device that reports information of the candidates to said data processing apparatus.

62. An accounting system according to Claim 61, wherein said input device inputs priority levels of the requested service and said determining device determines the candidates for a service which can be provided by said service providing apparatus within the upper limit of the charge according to the priority levels.

63. An accounting system according to Claim 61, wherein said input device provides an input field on a screen of said data processing apparatus in which the upper limit of the charge is input.

64. An accounting system according to Claim 61, wherein said reporting device provides the information of

the candidates on a screen of said data processing apparatus so that any of the candidates can be selected.

65. An accounting system according to Claim 61, wherein when a charge for a requested service is set by a user and is within the upper limit of the charge, said determining device determines the candidates for the service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge.

66. An accounting system according to Claim 61, wherein the requested service is a service of producing a printout of data.

67. An accounting apparatus for performing accounting on provision of a predetermined service, comprising:

an upper limit acquiring device that acquires an upper limit of a charge that is entered by a user;

a determining device that determines candidates for a service that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge; and

an output device that outputs information of the candidates determined by the determining device.

68. An apparatus according to Claim 67, further comprising a priority acquiring device that acquires user-

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designated priority levels, wherein said determining device determines the candidates for a service which can be provided within the upper limit of the charge according to the priority levels.